

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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PAO ROSS FROM GEORGE SHERMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AMERICAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF ARZEW LNG PLANT
INAUGURATION

REF: ALGIERS 0015

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR QUERY REGARDING REQUEST FROM GOA
MINISTER OF INFORMATION, I HAVE CONTACTED BUSINESS WEEK
MAGAZINE, NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, AND WALL STREET
JOURNAL. ALL OF THESE PUBLICATIONS, EXCEPT WALL STREET
JOURNAL, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN AN INVITATION FROM THE
GOA TO GO TO ALGERIA FOR THE INAUGURATION OF THE BECHTEL-
CONSTRUCTED LIQUID NATURAL GAS PLANT, AND HAVE GIVEN ME
THE FOLLOWING NAMES TO CONTACT.

2. (A) BUSINESS WEEK: WILLIAM DAVID KOSMIN, IN THE PARIS
BUREAU OF MCGRAW HILL PUBLICATIONS. ADDRESS: 25 RUE
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BEAUNIER, 75014 PARIS, FRANCE. TELEPHONE: PARIS 540-9438.

(B) NEW YORK TIMES: PAUL LEWIS, PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC
CORRESPONDENT IN EUROPE, PARIS.

(C) WASHINGTON POST: JOANNE OMANY, ENERGY REPORTER, WASH-
INGTON OFFICE. TELEPHONE: WASHINGTON 223-7292.

3. ALL THREE PUBLICATIONS ARE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT ANY FINANCING FROM GOA. I HAVE TOLD THEM IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THE GOA HAS IN MIND AND THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED DIRECTLY WITH THE ALGERIANS IF THE GOA FOLLOWS THROUGH ON THE INVITATIONS. EACH PUBLICATION HAS A-SO EMPHASIZED THAT IT CONSIDERS THE INAUGURATION OF THE LNG PLANT MORE THAN A ONE SHOT CEREMONIAL STORY, AND WOULD EXPECT THE GOA INVITATION TO INCLUDE MAKING AVAILABLE FOR LARGER STORIES INFORMATION AND TOP RANKING PERSONNEL VERSED IN THE ALGERIAN ECONOMY. IN OTHER WORDS, EACH WANTS TO BE ASSURED THAT SENDING A CORRESPONDENT ON THIS STORY IS A WORTHWHILE VENTURE.

4. I ASSURED THE EDITORS INVOLVED THAT WE WOULD MAKE THIS POINT INFORMALLY TO THE GOA AUTHORITIES, BUT ADDED THAT IT IS UP TO THE ALGERIANS WHETHER THEY FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE INVITATION. IF THEY DO, I SAID THAT THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN CONTACT DIRECTLY WITH THE CORRESPONDENTS NAMED.

5. INDEPENDENTLY, WITHOUT CONTACTING PUBLICATIONS DIRECTLY, ALGERIAN DESK HAS PROVIDED NAMES OF FOLLOWING JOURNALISTS TO DR. ABDELHAMID BRAHIMI, PRESIDENT OF SONATRACH'S USA OFFICE: BERNARD NOSSITER, LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF WASHINGTON POST; ANTHONY J. PARISI, NEW UNCLASSIFIED

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YORK TIMES; KAREN ELLIOT HOUSE, WALL STREET JOURNAL, BART COLLINS, INTERNATIONAL EDITOR, OIL AND GAS JOURNAL, PETROLEUM PUBLISHING CO. 1421 S. SHERIDAN RD., BOX 1260, TULSA OKLAHOMA 74101(TEL. AT WASHINGTON OFFICE, 202/347-1710)/ AND WANDA ZABLONSKI, MANAGING EDITOR, PETROLEUM INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY, 49 WEST 45 STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10036 (TEL. 212/575-1242). CHRISTOPHER

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